

AGENDA ITEM IV

PROPOSED LETTER OF INTENT

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY at ALEXANDRIA

B.S. IN PSYCHOLOGY

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

LSU at Alexandria (LSUA) offered a concentration in psychology from 1976 through 2002 through the Senior College Program in General Studies. A Bachelor of Liberal Studies with a major in psychology was implemented in the fall of 2003 after the University moved to four-year status. LSUA now proposes to replace that major in Liberal Studies with a full and separate baccalaureate program in Psychology.

STAFF SUMMARY

1. Appropriateness with the Role, Scope and Mission

The projected program is consistent with and appropriate to the role, scope and mission of the Louisiana State University at Alexandria.

2. Potential for Unnecessary Program Duplication

A degree program in psychology is included in the Board of Regents' list of core baccalaureate university offerings. There is no issue of unnecessary duplication.

3. Consistency with Desegregation Statement Agreement

The Desegregation Settlement Agreement does not provide for the development of this or any similar degree at a predominantly black institution in Louisiana. Hence, the staff believes that the proposed Letter of Intent is consistent with mandates of the Agreement.

4. Adherence to Specific Board of Regents Criteria for Funding

The proposal states the following regarding additional potential costs:

The program will require only moderate levels of additional funding as a result of creating a better selection of courses for students. The costs of additional faculty and library support materials are shown on the proposed budget which follows.

Year One: \$ 121,192
Year Two: 119,289

Year Three:	123,863
Year Four:	128,619
Year five:	<u>133,563</u>

Total	\$626,526	Additional costs for first five years of program
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With regard to meeting Regents funding criteria, LSUA's document indicates that the proposed program will promote economic development in the state and that it is deemed indispensable to fulfilling the role, scope and mission of the institution. LSUA indicates that 48% of the additional expenses for offering the program will be covered by "state appropriations", presumably from the generation of additional Student Credit Hours (SCH) or reallocation of current SCH. The other 52% of the additional expenses will be covered by "other sources, fees, etc." which presumably is tuition revenue. Any forthcoming proposal will have to address exactly how the additional costs will be covered.

STAFF SUMMARY

The staff concludes that the Letter of Intent for the projected B.S. program in Psychology at LSU-A clearly meets three of four requirements of **Academic Affairs Policy 2.4 - Letter of Intent for Projected New Academic Programs**. The only question which remains pertains to a persuasive rationale for additional cost. While the institution indicates that additional costs will be minimal and covered through State funding and self-generated funds, the exact sources were not explained.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the proposed Letter of Intent for a projected B.S. in Psychology (CIP Code 42.0101) at Louisiana State University at Alexandria. Any forthcoming proposal for this program must address funding needed to cover additional costs associated with program implementation.